



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - April 10, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, mostly dry weather favors spring fieldwork. Most areas ***west of the Rockies*** face water-supply concerns due to low reservoir levels and prospects for below-normal spring and summer runoff.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather is promoting winter wheat development but reducing soil moisture reserves. Topsoil moisture shortages are becoming a concern in winter wheat areas of ***Oklahoma and Texas***, but subsoil moisture reserves are mostly adequate. In contrast, the effects of long-term drought—including subsoil moisture shortages—remain a concern for winter wheat and pastures on the ***northern and central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, damp conditions in the ***Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes region*** are slowing fieldwork and winter wheat development. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, warm, dry weather favors a return to spring fieldwork following recent, drought-easing precipitation.
- ***In the South***, planting delays continue ***east of the Delta*** due to showery weather, wet fields, and lowland flooding. Planting of corn, cotton, soybeans, rice, and other spring-sown crops continues in the ***western Gulf Coast region*** and is resuming where field conditions permit in the ***Delta***.

Outlook: Unseasonably cold, wet weather will linger into the weekend across the ***East***, where a slow-moving storm system will continue to trigger locally heavy rain and high-elevation snowfall, especially in the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. Precipitation will overspread the ***Northeast*** by week's end, while cool weather will accompany a weak cold front across the ***upper Midwest***. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather will prevail across the ***Rockies and Plains***, while scattered showers will linger in the ***Pacific Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 15-19 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Rockies, Mississippi Valley, and Southeast***. Elsewhere, near-normal precipitation is expected. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, while cooler-than-normal weather will prevail in much of the ***West***.

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